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Director of Central Intelligence

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ARGENTINA: Concern About Terrorists

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[redacted] up to several dozen leftist Montonero guerrillas have reentered the country and could be planning to resume military operations. [redacted] since early last month the police have captured about 10 Montoneros and killed several of their leaders in firefights. Cuba reportedly has been aware of the infiltration for some time and is committed to supporting the Montoneros. [redacted]

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Comment: The firefights appear to have been staged by the police. Security officials probably will use the subversive threat to justify their continued role in internal security matters, which is the subject of intense civilian criticism. The security forces are effective, and the Montoneros are unlikely to mount more than small-scale operations. The Cubans have aided the Montoneros in the past, and Havana's apparently reduced interest in official government links suggests that it sees the current political uncertainty in Argentina as an opportunity to back the guerrillas. [redacted]

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